

UNHCR Grant Agreements with Organizations led by displaced and stateless people

Briefing Note



Deborah and Kip from the Myanmar Ethnic Women Refugee Organization conduct virtual sessions to support Myanmar refugee women affected by gender-based violence. UNHCR/ Patricia Krivanek/ November 2021

New grant agreements to break barriers

It is often difficult for grassroots organizations at the community level to get financial support. To address this gap, UNHCR introduced at the beginning of 2022 new grant agreements that allow our operations around the world to engage organizations led by displaced and stateless people and their hosts as our partners.

In line with our Grand Bargain commitments, these new grants (called grant agreements with POC-led organizations) create a simple mechanism to provide financial support to these organizations that will allow them to realize their projects and build their capacity.

Each organization can receive up to USD 4,000 per grant/project and up to USD 12,000 in total funding per year. The threshold may be raised in the future. Our operations will decide on an annual basis how many grants to disburse based on their needs and budget.

A flexible grant to help those who help their communities

The grant agreements target non-profit, grass-root organizations whose activities are based primarily on volunteer efforts and provide advocacy, protection and assistance services at community level. The organizations should be entirely established and led by refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, returnees, stateless people or any other person that UNHCR serves. They should also have more than 50% of them in positions of leadership and decision-making.



The project cycle has been designed to respond to the needs of small, volunteer-run organizations. The organizations can submit their proposal and sign the agreements in English, French or Spanish. Once engaged, they are only asked to meet minimal performance and financial reporting requirements, reducing the bureaucratic burden and allowing them to focus more on the execution of their project. The organizations are requested to register on the UN Partner Portal, which will increase their visibility and give them access to trainings.

An eight-country pilot

Wanting to assess the suitability of the initiative to the needs of displaced and stateless people around the world, last year UNHCR piloted and tested grants for 15 projects in eight countries (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Mali, Uganda, Malawi, Switzerland and Greece). From working with arts in Chile to empowering women in Malawi, the projects covered different areas, including physical and mental health, environment, livelihoods, shelter. The organizations were also asked to provide feedback, which was very positive. Lessons learned were incorporated into the agreements before their global rollout.

CONTACT US

Armando Castro Figueredo

Senior Programme Management Officer and
Partnership Governance Coordinator
Division of Strategic Planning and Results (DSPR)

Email: castrofi@unhcr.org